

# Electrical Shorts



*Planning and Development Services  
Electrical Team*

Issue 3

## Public Hearing Scheduled on Proposed Revisions to Chapter 10 City Electrical Code to include Adoption of 2008 NEC

### NOTES REGARDING PROPOSED CHAPTER 10, THE ELECTRICAL CODE:

The proposed draft of Chapter 10 includes both **administrative** provisions sections (Article I through Article XIII) and **technical** provisions sections (Article XIV through Article XV).

**A public hearing** was conducted before the Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee on the administrative provisions with a 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing before the same committee scheduled for **November 19, 2008**.

For the technical provisions of Chapter 10, a public hearing was conducted before the Electrical Supervisory Board for the contents found in Section 1403 of Article XIV. A **2<sup>nd</sup>** public hearing will be conducted before the Infrastructure and Growth Council Committee on **November 19, 2008**.

Section 1402 of Article XIV is informational in its content as these codes and code requirements, as outlined in this section, have already been adopted by and are in effect in the City of San Antonio.

The Proposed Draft of Chapter 10 Electrical Code can be found on our website at [www.sanantonio.gov/dsd](http://www.sanantonio.gov/dsd). Questions and or comments can be directed to Yvonne Medrano at [Yvonne.M.medrano@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Yvonne.M.medrano@sanantonio.gov) or

## Revised Electrical Permit Application

Revisions to Electrical Permit Application:

October 6, 2008 marked the official kick off for our revised electrical permit application. The revisions to the old permit application were designed to eliminate confusion from our customers and includes some items that were not accounted for in our old permit application.

A few of the highlighted changes include:

Grouping things such as service equipment and meter loops to make things easier to find on the application.

Including Temporary wiring for booths and carnivals on application.

Including Distributed Generation systems such as Photovoltaic's on application.

There were no fee increases to the permit application and the changes should make things easier for our customers when completing the permit application process.

The permit application can be found by visiting the [Development Services Electrical Division](#) homepage. For more information, contact customer service at (210) 207-1111

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*Questions /comments: can be directed to Chief Electrical*

### Frequently Asked Code Question:

**Q** - Are disconnecting means required for fluorescent fixtures?

**A**— Yes, Article 410.73 (g) of the 2005 NEC requires disconnecting means be provided for fluorescent fixtures that utilize double ended lamps and contain a ballast.

### Chapter 10 City Code Amendment to the NEC.

10-93 (1) (s) All feeder and branch circuit wiring methods shall include an equipment grounding conductor sized in accordance with Table 250.122 of the 2005 Code.

# COSA/CPS Sponsor Photovoltaic Systems Seminar

## Training Seminar Scheduled

*Photovoltaic's* is a solar energy technology that uses unique properties of semiconductors to directly convert solar radiation into electricity. Electrical components, such as inverters, charge controllers, and disconnects, control and condition the DC power from the solar panels (array) and either direct it to DC loads or convert to AC power for use by AC loads.

The installation must meet basic requirements set out by article 690 of the 2005 National Electrical Code and section 10-110 of Chapter 10, City Code. The current process for obtaining permits and inspections is outlined in [Information Bulletin 153](#) and basically requires plans to be submitted to PDSD with some minimum information.

As a customer service initiative, PDSD and CPS Energy will be co-hosting a seminar on November 12, 2008 that will be aimed at giving interested persons an overview of the current processes of both our organizations when dealing with Photovoltaic Systems in our City. The seminar will be held from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Energy Management and Training Center a CPS Energy owned facility located at 4514 Frank Bryant St. off of South W.W. White Rd.

Doors will open at 5:30 PM with refreshments served. The seminar will include personnel from both our organizations along with an expert in Photovoltaic System installations and someone from the North American Board of Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) that will provide information on the process of becoming certified.

Any questions can be directed to myself or to my two senior electrical inspectors, John Raney, [john.raney@sanantonio.gov](mailto:john.raney@sanantonio.gov) (210) 215-7768 or George Moreno, [george.moreno@sanantonio.gov](mailto:george.moreno@sanantonio.gov) (210) 260-3905.

## GFCI Protection Requirements On TML's

### GFCI Protection on TML'S:

Article 590.6 of the 2005 NEC requires that all 125 volt, 15, 20, and 30 amp receptacles be provided with GFCI. Also in this article you will find that other receptacles that do not fit this classification such as 240 volt receptacles will either have to be GFCI protected or provided with protection through an assured equipment grounding conductor program.

Since most jobs are not able to have the assured equipment grounding conductor program established at the time of the TML inspection, the GFCI protection will have to be provided and verified by the inspector.

In this same article, there is a provision that allows the GFCI protection to be provided with an attachment plug set that has this protection built into it. This allows us to work with our industry in allowing readily visible and permanent notice at the TML to be posted that GFCI protection is not provided and thus will require one of these cord sets to be utilized.

This notice will serve to warn persons working on the TML that GFCI protection is not provided and that they will be responsible for providing their own protection. The notice must be in both English and Spanish and be placed at a location on the TML that will make it readily visible to all using the outlets on the TML.

Hopefully this helps with some of the complaints received on GFCI devices being stolen from TML's and will give contractors an option to utilize if they so wish.

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# Town Hall Meeting (TDLR Compliance Division)

## Town Hall Meeting:

Compliance division personnel from the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation (TDLR) office have been personally invited to visit our city and give our local contractors and other industry personnel an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns over State rules and regulations. There is much happening at the State level involving electrical licenses and proposed administrative rules and regulations and TDLR staff will be on hand to help answer just about any of these questions and concerns.

For example, some limited license categories have been introduced at the State level and are intended to regulate a specific area of our industry. Appliance installers is one of those limited license categories and allows these licensed individuals to install new appliances onto existing outlet locations. Come learn more about this and other license classifications and requirements.

TDLR staff and I hope that having this meeting can accomplish: 1) putting some faces to names; 2) finding out about electrical safety issues/concerns that may be specific to our area; 3) establishing working partnerships with local jurisdiction and TDLR staff; 4) answering any “hot topic” questions regarding state or local electrical requirements; and 5) provide additional education on the law and rules.

The Town Hall Meeting will be held on **December 11, 2008 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM** in the Board Room located on the 1st floor of our Development Services Building at 1901 S. Alamo St. Stop by and enjoy some refreshments and learn more about what is happening in your industry.

Any questions can be directed to myself or to my two senior electrical inspectors, John Raney, [john.raney@sanantonio.gov](mailto:john.raney@sanantonio.gov) (210) 215-7768 or George Moreno, [george.moreno@sanantonio.gov](mailto:george.moreno@sanantonio.gov) (210) 260-3905.

## Training Opportunities

### City of San Antonio Offers Training

The San Antonio Building Codes Academy (SABCA) is a South/Central Texas regional training academy sponsored by the City of San Antonio Planning and Development Services Department. SABCA was established with the goal of bringing high-quality educators and necessary building-related codes training to code officials, design professionals, builders, tradesmen and building owners and managers. SABCA is currently sponsoring training seminars in the fall, winter and spring of each year.



SABCA has scheduled upcoming training seminar on One and Two Family Dwelling Electrical Systems that will be given by Keith Lofland an instructor with the International Association of Electrical Inspectors.

This training and course is approved by both TDLR and the City of San Antonio for continuing education requirements of license renewals.

The seminar will be held in two separate 4 hour sessions, one in the AM and one in the PM.

The seminar will be held in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, 200 East Market St. on the date of February 4th through the 6th. For more information contact Jim Flood at 210-207-5097 for assistance or e-mail [sabca@sanantonio.gov](mailto:sabca@sanantonio.gov)

